# Annual Accessibility Status Report Township of Armstrong Year 2024

The Township of Armstrong is committed to preventing and removing barriers to accessibility in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR). Our multi-year accessibility plan outlines our efforts to create an inclusive community, and this Annual Status Report provides an update on the progress made in improving accessibility within the municipality.

This report is available online at www.armstrongtownship.com. To request an alternate format, please contact general@armstrong.ca or call 705-563-2375.

#### A. General

a. All employees have completed accessibility training to ensure compliance with AODA requirements and to enhance their understanding of accessibility needs.

#### **B.** Customer Service

- a. A wireless Interac machine was purchased to improve accessibility for payments and transactions.
- Library staff and the Library Board received training and resources on how to better accommodate and support autistic children, fostering a more welcoming environment.

### C. Information and Communications

- a. Documentation provided in council packages has been upgraded to ensure all documents are fully searchable, improving accessibility for users who rely on screen readers and other assistive technologies.
- b. The Township continues to ensure that municipal communications, including website updates, adhere to AODA standards.
- c. The Township has launched an online app that allows for accessible forms and enables residents to access more services from home, where they have their assistive resources and feel more comfortable.

## D. Employment

- a. All job postings now include clear language stating that accommodations are available throughout the recruitment process.
- b. The Township continues to review hiring practices to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all applicants.

### E. Design of Public Spaces

a. The lift at the Municipal Office and Library has been out of service since the Fall of 2022 and remains non-functional. Signs have been posted to inform residents, and alternative accessibility options, such as curbside book pickup and the wireless Interac machine, are available.

- b. The lift at the Recreation Centre was out of service from August 2024 to January 2025 but has since been repaired.
- c. Replacement of both lifts will be considered as part of the 2025 budget deliberations.
- d. Approximately 50 metres of sidewalk were repaired to improve accessibility along municipal roads.
- e. The Township is reviewing additional opportunities to improve accessibility in public spaces, including potential enhancements to pathways and outdoor recreational areas.

## F. Summary of Consultations

a. The Township welcomes ongoing feedback on accessibility. Residents can provide input through the accessibility feedback form on the municipal website or in person at the municipal office.

#### G. Next Steps

- a. The Township has applied for provincial approval of a scope change for accessibility improvements at the pool and is awaiting a response.
- b. Options will be explored to restore full accessibility to the Municipal Office and Library.
- c. Consideration will be given to adding a concrete pad to the older pavilion to connect it to the newly paved accessible walkway, improving accessibility in the park area.
- d. The Township will continue to assess and prioritize accessibility enhancements in all municipal facilities and spaces as part of future planning and budget processes.

The Township of Armstrong remains committed to fostering an accessible and inclusive community. We appreciate public feedback and will continue working toward removing barriers for all residents and visitors.